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FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) (A/47/751). During its consideration of the report, representatives of the Secretary-General provided additional information to the Advisory Committee.

2. The Security Council, by resolution 784 (1992), approved the proposal of the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of ONUSAL through 30 November 1992 and, by resolution 791 (1992), decided to extend it for a further period of six months through 31 May 1993, as recommended by the Secretary-General (S/24833 and Add.1).

3. The Committee recalls that in view of the lack of time to consider the Secretary-General's report on the financing of ONUSAL in December, the General Assembly, at its forty-seventh session, authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments up to the amount of $8,045,600 gross ($7,514,200 net) for the maintenance of ONUSAL for the period ending 28 February 1993 and apportioned that amount, as an ad hoc arrangement, among Member States in accordance with the scheme set out in its resolution 47/41 of 1 December 1992 (decision A/47/452 of 22 December 1992).

4. The Secretary-General states in section II of his report that as at 30 November 1992, assessments totalling $49,503,028 were apportioned among Member States for the financing of ONUSAL from 1 July 1991 to 31 October 1992, and as at 30 November 1992 payments received amounted to $37,894,597, resulting in outstanding assessments of $11,608,431. The Committee was informed that as at 31 December 1992, outstanding assessments for ONUSAL amount to $11,593,125. The financial performance of ONUSAL for the period 1 January to 31 October 1992 and November 1992 is summarized in annex I of the report, with supplementary information thereon in annex II.

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5. As indicated in paragraph 20 of the report, the General Assembly, in paragraph 9 of its resolution 46/240, decided, in principle, that the special accounts for the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and ONUSAL should be merged. The Committee was informed that as at 31 December 1992, when the accounts were merged, total income for ONUCA amounted to $100,867,828 and net expenditure to $87,957,782, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $12,910,046 against outstanding assessments of $12,716,027 or an unutilized balance of $194,019. Annex V to the report shows the combined income and net operating expenditure for ONUSAL and ONUCA for the period ending 30 November 1992. Upon inquiry, the Committee was provided with the information for the above period as at 31 December 1992, showing a net operating deficit of $6,736,160 in the combined ONUSAL/ONUCA Special Account. However, the Committee was informed that an additional amount of $4,590,007 was received in January 1993 in respect of the ONUSAL/ONUCA Special Account for the previous mandate period, thus reducing the net operating deficit to $2,146,153 as at 31 January 1993. The Secretary-General recommends, in paragraph 22 of the report, that no action be taken at this time in connection with the combined income of $4,591,654 as at 31 December 1992 and that this amount be retained in the ONUSAL/ONUCA Special Account pending receipt of the outstanding assessed contributions for both missions.

6. With regard to the disposition of ONUCA-owned equipment not transferred to ONUSAL ($1,769,903), the Committee recalls that it was shipped to the United Nations Supply Depot at Pisa and placed in reserve for use by other peace-keeping missions. The Secretary-General stated in his report on the financing of ONUCA (A/47/556, para. 15) that when the remaining ONUCA-owned equipment is drawn from the reserve stock, appropriate credit will be recorded to the combined ONUSAL/ONUCA Special Account.

Expenditure from 1 January to 30 November 1992

7. The Committee was informed that the expenditure of ONUSAL for the period 1 January to 30 November 1992 as at 31 December 1992 amounts to $36,408,900 gross ($34,589,800 net) against an apportionment of $39 million gross ($37 million net), resulting in savings of $2,591,100 gross ($2,410,200 net). The Committee was further informed that the projected overexpenditures under military personnel ($236,100) and helicopter operations ($1,168,700) were mainly due to the one-month extension of the mandate, while substantial savings were made under international and local staff ($2,747,000), including civilian police ($318,600), and transport operations ($222,500).

8. The Committee points out that according to the financial performance report for the period 1 January to 30 November 1992 as at 31 December 1992, the projected expenditure varies considerably from the cost estimates and apportionment for that period. In this connection, the Committee recalls that following the Secretary-General's request for $48.8 million gross ($46.4 million net) for the period 1 January to 31 October 1992 (see A/46/900), the General Assembly, by its resolution 46/240, appropriated $39 million gross ($37 million net) for the 10-month period; as at 31 December 1992, the total savings amount to $2.6 million gross ($2.4 million net) after financing an additional month of the operation until 30 November 1992. The Committee further notes substantial savings under international staff salaries, travel of military personnel, civilian police and international and local staff,

prefabricated buildings and other items, compared to large overexpenditure under helicopter operations, commercial communication, other equipment and freight and cartage. The Committee was informed that savings under civilian personnel costs were due to a larger vacancy rate than expected and delay in the repatriation travel of staff.

9. The Committee is of the view that the cost estimates for peace-keeping operations should reflect more accurately the actual requirements while allowing some flexibility in carrying out a mission, taking into account the financial performance during previous mandate periods and similar operations. The Committee reiterates that substantial savings or overexpenditures in the financial performance of an operation should be well explained in the Secretary-General's report.

Cost estimates from 1 December 1992 to 31 May 1993

10. According to section V of the report, the Secretary-General estimates the costs of ONUSAL for the period 1 December 1992 to 31 May 1993 at $19,339,500 gross ($17,999,700 net) as summarized in annex III to the report, with supplementary information thereon in annex IV. The Committee was informed that owing to a number of adjustments for major expenditures, including reduction of military personnel, delay in recruitment of civilian police, a higher than projected vacancy rate for international staff, travel, reduction of helicopter and transport operations, general supplies and support account, the cost estimates for the above period have been reduced to $18.1 million gross ($16.7 million net).

11. Annex VI to the report provides the proposed revised staffing table for ONUSAL, including a decrease of eight international and six local posts, the proposed upgrading of one D-1 post to the D-2 level for a Deputy Chief of Mission and downgrading of 23 Professional posts (para. 18). Annex VII provides information on the functional titles and related job descriptions of the proposed posts. The civilian staff and related costs are shown in annex VIII and the distribution of civilian personnel by office in annex IX. The distribution of transportation and other equipment is indicated in annexes X and XI.

12. The Committee was informed that the estimated military personnel costs would decrease by $207,800 owing to a reduction of military observers, or 113 months of mission subsistence allowance.

13. Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that the planned additional 50 civilian police monitors (annex IV, para. 10) have not arrived yet in the mission area due to delays by the contributing State, resulting in savings of $279,000.

14. The Committee was further informed that the projected vacancy rate of 5 per cent for international staff (ibid., annex VIII) would need to be adjusted to 26 per cent for Professional staff and 31 per cent for General Service and Field Service staff due to difficulties in recruiting or assigning qualified staff to the mission area, in particular human rights officers, resulting in savings of $790,600. Bearing in mind the projected savings of $1.4 million under international salaries for the period 1 January to

30 November 1992 owing to vacancies, or 29 per cent, excluding salaries for one additional month not budgeted for, and taking into account the pattern in other operations, the Committee is of the view that a projected 5 per cent vacancy rate is too low and the estimated civilian personnel costs are considerably higher than warranted. The Committee therefore recommends that, in future, appropriate adjustments should be made under civilian personnel costs.

15. With regard to mission subsistence allowance for military personnel, civilian police and international staff, the Committee notes that the proposed standard rate throughout El Salvador continues to be $64 per day for the first 30 days and $61 per day thereafter (annex IV, para. 2). In this connection, the Committee recalls its observation in its previous reports on ONUSAL (A/45/1021, para. 10, and A/46/904, para. 10) that it was not fully convinced of the need to grant ONUSAL staff substantially higher rates than for other United Nations staff in El Salvador, and under the circumstances requested the Secretary-General to review this allowance. The Committee notes that there is no indication in the Secretary-General's report that such a review was carried out.

16. The Committee notes that the salaries and staff costs for international staff are based on New York standard costs except for international staff on assignment from other United Nations organizations and mission staff (annex IV, para. 5), which are on average higher than those from other duty stations. The Committee is of the view that the estimated total remuneration of international staff, including General Service and Field Service staff, of about $59,590 gross ($49,775 net) per person for the six-month period (annex VIII), or $9,932 gross ($8,296 net) per month, is high. The Committee also believes that the estimated average total remuneration of local staff of about $4,702 gross ($4,150 net) per person for the six-month period (annex VIII), or about $784 gross ($692 net) per month, is high compared to the average local salary scale.

17. The Committee is also of the view that the number of staff in the Administrative Division (42 international and 75 local), or more than one third of the total civilian personnel of ONUSAL (annex IX) is high and could be reduced.

18. The Secretary-General proposes to upgrade the post of principal officer (D-1), Office of the Chief of Mission, to Deputy Chief of Mission at the D-2 level (annexes VI and VII) as a result of additional and unanticipated responsibilities, which have devolved upon ONUSAL in the course of promoting the implementation of the Peace Accords. In this connection, the Committee recalls its observations in its last report (A/46/904, para. 16) with regard to the proposed establishment of two additional D-2 posts for the period 1 January to 31 October 1992. While the Committee does not object to the proposed upgrading of one D-1 post for a Deputy Chief of Mission, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General review the grades of the large number of 28 senior staff (1 ASG, 4 D-2, 6 D-1 and 17 P-5) of ONUSAL, which is a relatively small mission and at an advanced stage of its operation, with a view to streamlining its structure and making it more cost-effective. The Committee further reiterates its view that the personal level or recognition of an incumbent should not determine the level of a particular post (A/46/904, para. 16).

19. As indicated in annex IV, paragraph 11 (vi) of the report, provision of $58,300 is made for consultants to provide legal and other assistance, including 45 work months for research work in the Office of the Chief of Mission ($13,500). The Committee notes that the rate for one local lawyer has been increased to $3,000 per month although in its last report (A/46/904, para. 17) it was of the view that the rate of $2,500 per month was high and that a major part of these functions could be performed by the large civilian establishment of ONUSAL. The Committee further notes that provision of $8,800 is made under this item for public information publicity campaigns although in its last report the Committee stated that it was not convinced of the need to provide such assistance. The Committee therefore reiterates its request that the Secretary-General achieve maximum economy in this area (see para. 26 below).

20. With regard to the cost estimates for travel of military personnel ($532,500), civilian police ($1,125,000) and international and local staff ($30,000) (annex IV, paras. 8-11), the Committee trusts that the substantial savings under travel during the previous mandate period have been duly taken into account (see para. 8 above).

21. With regard to premises/accommodation ($405,800), the Committee notes that provision is made for the continued rental of ONUSAL headquarters, together with parking space, at $24,130 per month for six months ($144,780), four regional and two subregional offices ($40,380), four military regional offices and 17 police centres and lot rental for 15 trailers, hangars for helicopters and parking space near to the port for vehicles and storage of materials (annex IV, para. 12). Bearing in mind its observations in its last report (A/46/904, para. 20), the Committee was concerned that two years after its inception, ONUSAL continues to pay for parking space at its headquarters. The Committee points out that in its last two reports on the financing of ONUSAL (A/45/1021, para. 14, and A/46/904, para. 20) it recalled the obligations of the host country under the model status-of-forces agreement for peace-keeping operations (A/45/594) and trusted that the Secretary-General would pursue every effort with the host country to obtain premises for the operation of the Mission and the accommodation of the staff without cost to ONUSAL. The Committee therefore requests the Secretary-General to report on the efforts he has made in this regard in his next report on the financing of ONUSAL.

22. The Committee is of the view that following the reduction of 123 military personnel (annex IV, para. 6), and taking into account the continued high vacancy rate of international staff, the large vehicle establishment of ONUSAL (annex X) should be reduced in proportion to the reduction of personnel of the Mission and part of it redeployed to other operations or sold in the Mission area, resulting in savings and/or miscellaneous income.

23. The Committee believes that the proposed provision for vehicle maintenance ($279,600) at $103 per vehicle per month for 451 vehicles (annex IV, para. 17) appears to be high, taking into account that 334 vehicles were purchased in 1992 (A/46/900, annex IV, para. 31) and repair and maintenance costs are usually low in the first year of operation. In this connection, the Committee was informed that the estimated costs for repair and maintenance and for petrol, oil and lubricants would be reduced.

24. As regards helicopter operations ($1,434,000), provision is made for the commercial hiring of five helicopters for a period of six months at a monthly rate of $47,800 per helicopter (annex IV, para. 21). In this connection, the Committee recalls its observation in its last report (A/46/904, para. 23) that "considering the relative small size of the mission area, the existing infrastructure in the country, the large establishment of 467 vehicles, the relatively small core strength of 244 military personnel compared to large-scale operations, and taking into account that the separation of forces is now complete, the Committee was not convinced of the need to operate five helicopters for the entire mandate period". Upon inquiry, the Committee was informed that helicopter operations would be reduced, resulting in further savings of $166,000.

25. With regard to the provision for general supplies ($240,000) (annex IV, para. 30), the Committee was informed that there would be savings.

26. The Committee notes that provision is made for Office of Public Information equipment ($16,000) and various peace and education campaigns in the mission area ($120,000) (annex IV, paras. 27 and 31). The Committee recalls that in its last two reports on the financing of ONUSAL (A/45/1021, para. 17, and A/46/904, para. 25), it noted that efforts to initiate an information campaign to inform the public about the Mission under the Agreement, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/45/242/Add.1, annex II, paras. 20 (c) and (i)), should be made through the local media in particular to achieve these aims. The Committee further recalled that the programme budget for 1992-1993, as approved by the General Assembly in resolution 46/186, provides under part VII, section 31, $100.9 million for public information, including $57 million for promotional services which covers peace and security and in particular activities relating to peace-keeping operations (A/46/904, para. 26).

27. The Committee was further informed that as a result of the high vacancy rate of international staff and savings of $790,600 (see para. 14 above), the estimated provision under the support account for peace-keeping operations ($605,800) (annex IV, para. 38) would be reduced by $67,200.

28. With regard to the cost estimates for premises, transport and air operations, communications, other equipment and supplies and services, the Committee recalls its recommendation in its recent report on the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) (A/47/896, para. 13) that "whenever cost-effective and technically feasible, every reasonable effort should be made by the Secretariat in accordance with established procurement procedures, to acquire services, resources and materials from local and area sources". In this connection, the Committee recalls that substantial savings were made under prefabricated buildings during the previous mandate period ending 30 November 1992 due to local procurement (see para. 8 above). The Committee trusts that ONUSAL will continue to maximize efforts in this regard.

29. In view of the Committee's observations and recommendations in paragraphs 10 to 28 above and the number of areas where savings can be made, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly appropriate for ONUSAL $17.2 million gross ($16.0 million net) for the period 1 December 1992 to 31 May 1993 (see para. 32 below).

30. With regard to the Secretary-General's recommendation (para. 23 (c)) to retain the combined miscellaneous and interest income of $4.6 million in the ONUSAL/ONUCA Special Account (see para. 5 above), the Committee saw no need to retain that amount, taking into account the current large unencumbered balance, the value of ONUCA-owned equipment in the United Nations Supply Depot ($1.8 million) and the unutilized portion of the appropriation provided for ONUCA following its termination with effect from 17 January 1992 ($4.7 million gross or $4.6 million net). In this connection, the Committee recalls that the mandate of ONUCA was terminated by the Security Council in its resolution 730 (1992) with effect from 17 January 1992, while the appropriations and assessments were made for the full mandate period until 30 April 1992. According to information from the Secretary-General, the assessment in the amount of $4.7 million gross ($4.6 million net) was not covered by the mandate of the Security Council. The Committee therefore requests the Secretary-General to address this issue and indicate in his next report on ONUSAL the action taken on the unutilized balance of ONUCA.

31. The Committee points out that the unencumbered balance referred to in paragraph 30 above comprises unutilized appropriations as well as miscellaneous and interest income. The Committee therefore recommends that the combined miscellaneous and interest income of $4.6 million be credited to Member States against assessments for ONUSAL in accordance with the United Nations financial regulations. The Committee further recommends that the Secretary-General pursue his efforts to collect the outstanding assessments for ONUCA and ONUSAL.

32. The Committee has been informed that the amount of $8,045,600 gross ($7,514,200 net), which was authorized for commitment and apportioned by the General Assembly last December for the period ending 28 February 1993 (see para. 3 above), has already been fully assessed. Thus, the total amount remaining to be assessed upon Member States for the current mandate period, after crediting the combined income of $4.6 million, is $4.6 million gross ($3.9 million net).

33. With regard to the period after 31 May 1993, the Committee recommends that the Secretary-General be given commitment authority in the amount of $2.9 million gross ($2.7 million net) per month for the period of the extension with the prior concurrence of the Advisory Committee should the Security Council extend the mandate of ONUSAL. In the light of its comments in paragraph 30 above, the Committee would first review the action taken by the Secretary-General on the unutilized balance of ONUCA and the financial status of the ONUSAL/ONUCA Special Account before it decides whether or not to authorize additional assessments for ONUSAL. Should the Security Council extend the mandate of ONUSAL, the Committee requests that the Secretary-General submit cost estimates for ONUSAL for the period after 31 May 1993 and a detailed performance report for the current mandate period as soon as possible and not later than 1 July 1993.

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Agenda item 143
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 3 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to present to you the Agreement signed on 3 March 1993 by Messrs. Alija Izetbegovic, Haris Silajdzic, Mate Boban and Mile Akmadzic (see annex).

May I request your kind assistance in circulating the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Agreement

President Izetbegovic, Dr. Silajdzic, Mr. Boban and Prime Minister Akmadzic hereby agree as follows:

1. Upon the signing of the comprehensive peace package by President Izetbegovic, both sides agree that all provinces will be considered a part of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and will not be considered national territories.

2. During the period of interim government, both sides agree to fully respect the authorized decisions of the Presidency and the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

3. Once the peace agreements have been signed, the parties agree to fly the current flag of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina along the international borders of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on all public buildings of Bosnia and Herzegovina until a flag has been agreed by all the parties under the new constitution.

4. The responsibilities of the Presidency, the Government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Provinces will be in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Constitutional Principles agreed and signed by the parties.

5. In the light of General Nambiar's letter dated 1 March 1993 on the control of heavy weapons (see appendix), President Izetbegovic has agreed to sign the military agreement.

6. The parties agree that the institution of the Presidency shall be preserved during the period of interim government. There will be nine members on the interim Presidency, with three representatives from each of the three constituent peoples. Since the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina is to be demilitarized as provided for in Constitutional Principle No. 7, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces will not continue to serve in the interim Presidency.

7. The nine members of the interim Presidency shall designate one member to serve as President of the Presidency. The President will perform the role of head of State. The position of President will rotate every six months among the three constituent peoples in accordance with the existing sequence of rotation (Muslim, Croat and Serb).

8. The interim Presidency will take its decisions by consensus of nine, by a qualified majority of seven or by a simple majority of five depending on whether the decision relates to a constitutional principle, or specially important questions, or to normal business of the Presidency. If the members of the interim Presidency are unable to agree on the applicable majority, they will consult the Co-Chairmen whose decision will be binding.

9. The parties have submitted the following six names to serve in the interim Presidency: Fikret Abdic, Mile Akmadzic, Franjo Boras, Ejup Ganic, Alija Izetbegovic and Miro Lasic. The Co-Chairmen will ask the Bosnian Serbs to propose three Serb representatives to serve on the Presidency.

10. The parties agree that in the interim period the continuity of the legal institutions of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be preserved to the extent possible and compatible with the nine Constitutional Principles.

Dated: 3 March 1993

(Signed) Alija IZETBEGOVIC

(Signed) Mate BOBAN

(Signed) Haris SILAJDZIC

(Signed) Mile AKMADZIC

APPENDIX

Letter dated 1 March 1993 from the Commander of the United Nations Protection Force addressed to the President of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. You will recall that you had some reservations about the control of heavy weapons in the Agreement on Cessation of Hostilities that was drafted at Geneva in early January 1993.

2. Since that Agreement was drafted, there are indications that there will be a fairly substantial allocation of resources for implementation and, as such, I have conveyed to the Co-Chairmen the feasibility of placing the heavy weaponry of all the warring forces under United Nations control. I am sure this will dispel any remaining doubts you have and that will facilitate your endorsement of the Agreement.

(Signed) Lieutenant-General Satish NAMBIAR
Force Commander

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Agenda item 63

REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Letter dated 3 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. A. V. Kozyrev, on the subject of your report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold war era" (A/C.1/47/7).

I request you to have this letter circulated as an official document of the forty-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly under agenda item 63.

(Signed) Y. VORONTSOV

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ANNEX

Letter dated 2 March 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

Your report entitled "New dimensions of arms regulation and disarmament in the post-cold war era" has been noted with great interest in the Russian Federation. We regard the report as an important and timely initiative.

The report persuasively testifies to the considerably increased significance of genuine disarmament measures in the new international conditions. Especially in the conditions of the post-bloc world, United Nations bodies in the field of disarmament can become more effective instruments of multilateral diplomacy. We believe that the international community should concentrate its efforts on the following priority issues on the disarmament agenda.

First. Recent years have been a time of intense diplomatic activity in the area of arms regulation and this activity has culminated in the conclusion of unprecedented disarmament agreements. Among the most noteworthy of these agreements are the Treaty between Russia and the United States of America on the Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Weapons, the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

Today, the issues of strict and consistent implementation of the major agreements that have been concluded and maximum mobilization of existing resources for this purpose have come to the fore. It is important at the same time to strike a balance between the dynamics of the process of eliminating weapons and the achievement of steady economic growth in those countries which bear a heavy burden as a result of disarmament. There is little point in rushing from an insane arms race into a mindless disarmament race.

As our experience shows, it is an extremely difficult matter to eliminate on one's own the distorting effects of a military economy. Compliance with obligations under existing agreements is costing Russia alone an amount which exceeds the national income of some relatively developed countries. It is therefore of the utmost importance today to have an effective strategy of international partnership for the practical elimination of weapons and the retooling of military industries. Russia is not asking for special treatment for itself. Such a partnership is needed by all countries, developed and developing alike.

The United Nations can make an important contribution in such efforts. The Organization is an appropriate forum for conducting a dialogue on conversion. At the same time, it could encourage practical steps by States to attract investments in converted and high-tech industries, to develop rational criteria for exports, especially of defensive weapons, and to channel the resources thereby obtained to meet the requirements of conversion.

Second. Russia has consistently advocated the adoption of effective measures for strengthening the existing non-proliferation regimes. The key element here is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and its transformation into a universal agreement without any time-limit, which, in our view, is a major objective of the review conference on the Treaty scheduled for 1995.

We have serious concerns about the fact that accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty is sometimes surrounded with additional conditions, and is depicted as a special "concession" to the international community, for which the latter must "pay a price". We believe that such an approach must be met with an appropriate response also on the part of the United Nations in the spirit of the decisions adopted at the Summit Meeting of the Security Council which took place in January 1992.

Third. With drastic reductions in the nuclear weapons of Russia and the United States, bringing that class of weapons to a low level, the world community is entitled to expect other nuclear Powers - the United Kingdom, France and China - to join in the process of nuclear disarmament in the foreseeable future.

Silence at the nuclear launch sites of Russia, the United States and France creates favourable conditions for solving the problem of banning nuclear tests. Russia confirms its readiness to participate in the speedy elaboration of an international treaty on the full prohibition of nuclear tests. It is the duty of all Governments to step up their efforts to that end, utilizing, inter alia, the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament.

Fourth. Such an ordering of priorities in the field of multilateral disarmament would bring into sharp focus the task of enhancing the effectiveness of the international machinery of discussions and negotiations in this field. The existing mechanisms here - the First Committee of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament - needs to be carefully and comprehensively restructured, with improved mutual coordination of activities.

The merging of the problems of disarmament and international security in the First Committee is already a positive step, reflecting a modern, comprehensive approach to these questions. It is important to pursue this to an increasing extent, keeping in sight all the dimensions of international security, including its economic and environmental aspects. These issues call for further rationalization of the work of the First Committee.

Russia views the process already begun of revitalizing the United Nations Disarmament Commission in a positive light. In the longer term, the Commission should move on to the pre-negotiational elaboration of specific issues for subsequent referral to negotiating forums, especially the Conference on Disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament needs to be restructured. It needs to acquire flexibility in its forms and methods of work, retaining its primary function as a negotiating body. In the longer term, the Conference might profitably evolve into a unique "umbrella forum", under which it would be possible to conduct multilateral negotiations on disarmament and on measures for confidence-building and transparency. Those purposes would be served, in our view, by a significant expansion of this negotiating body through the inclusion of those States which, up to the present time have formally applied for membership, in other words, an increase of about one and a half times. Questions of the practical reform of the Conference could then be taken up, taking into account the contribution of these new members in shaping the character of this forum.

In general, there is a need to impart greater organizational harmony and special "compactness" to the system of global machinery for disarmament. We are also in favour of strengthening and consolidating the disarmament structures of the United Nations Secretariat.

Fifth. The integration of arms control into the broad context of the maintenance of international security should also be carried out at other levels. An essential element of the peace-keeping operations carried on under the United Nations flag would be, in our view, the subsequent drafting of effective agreements that would guarantee against a resumption of military operations, with a strong "disarmament" basis. An important contribution to this could be a broader application of the experience of dismantling Iraq's war machine under United Nations control and of the conduct of peacemaking operations in Yugoslavia and Cambodia and in other regions of the world, for example in the form of a report by the United Nations Secretary-General.

It would be possible for the United Nations to consider the question of adopting a special "code of conduct" for the parties to conflicts between nations, which, among other restrictive measures, would provide for prohibition of the use of military aviation and rocket-artillery systems, and, at a subsequent stage, of armour technology. Such measures could include a moratorium on the transfer of such weapons to the parties in conflict, a system of supervising observance of a regime of non-use of the most modern weapons systems and the exchange of information concerning violations of that regime, and a request to the Security Council for possible coercive action against the opposing sides in the event that they use military aviation or rocket-artillery systems.

It would also be worth making an attempt to bring up to date the clause concerning provisional measures to be undertaken by the Security Council under Article 40 of the Charter of the United Nations, with a view to defusing dangerous crises and regional conflicts. Additional measures could include a cease-fire, separation of the opposing sides and the setting up of demilitarized zones and "humanitarian" corridors.

The United Nations, founded in the name of noble goals following the end of the most destructive of wars, has performed its key mission - averting a new world war - in one of the most complex and peace-threatening epochs of human history.

Today the Organization faces new challenges. An important role in the activities of the world community must be allotted to integrating, globalizing and activating efforts in the field of arms control.

A. KOZYREV

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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 4 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as current Chairman of the group of countries members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, I have the honour to enclose, attached to this letter, the statement that was issued following the special meeting of the group that was convened on 4 March 1993 to consider the deteriorating situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex). This meeting was also attended by the President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Haris Silajdzic.

I would be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKŞIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement of 4 March 1993 by the Chairman of the group of Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

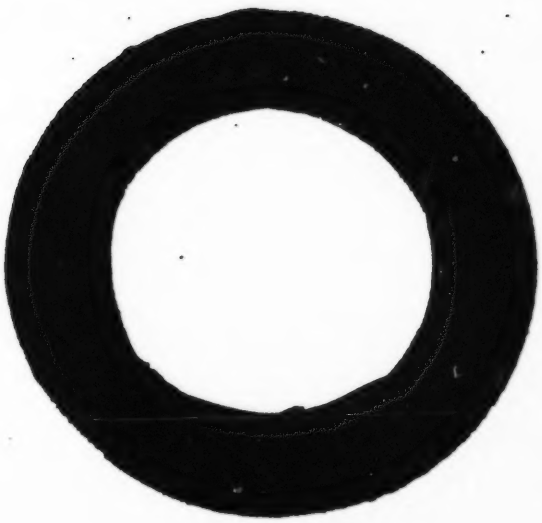
A special meeting of the delegations of the Member States of the United Nations that are members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference was convened in New York on 4 March 1993 to hear a statement by His Excellency Alija Izetbegovic, President of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to discuss the grave situation arising from the continuing massacres committed by the Serb paramilitary units in the region of eastern Bosnia.

President Izetbegovic made a statement explaining the grim situation in his country, which continues to be victimized by brutal Serbian aggression. He informed the delegations of the deteriorating humanitarian situation in eastern Bosnia and the atrocities and massacres to which the Muslim population is being subjected. He also briefed the delegations about the state of the negotiations being carried out in New York.

The meeting thanked President Izetbegovic for his statement. The meeting also expressed its outrage and grave concern at the continuing aggression of Serbian paramilitary forces against the Muslim population in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in particular in eastern Bosnia. The meeting strongly condemned the suffering inflicted on innocent civilians through long months of siege followed now by more ethnic cleansing and massacres. The meeting called for an immediate cease-fire and an end to the Serbian aggression, reversal of all consequences of ethnic cleansing and an end to the grave violations of international humanitarian law. The meeting noted the prompt reaction of the Security Council and called on it to ensure immediate and full compliance with its relevant resolutions and the presidential statement of 3 March 1993, through concrete enforcement actions.

The meeting recalled Security Council resolution 770 (1992), wherein the Council called upon States to take, nationally or through regional agencies or arrangements, all measures necessary to facilitate in coordination with the United Nations the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The meeting gave its full support to President Izetbegovic and the delegation of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the negotiations being conducted in New York by the Co-Chairmen of the Steering Committee of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. The meeting noted with appreciation the flexibility demonstrated by the Bosnian Government in its endeavour to reach an honourable, just and equitable settlement that would fully preserve the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting also called on the leaders of the other parties to fully cooperate with the Co-Chairmen and refrain from adopting positions and pursuing policies that would undermine the negotiations.



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Agenda item 143
THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA
AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 5 March 1993 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran
to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 5 March 1993 from His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Velayati, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to you, concerning the tragic situation in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex).

I would appreciate if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gholamali KHOSHROO
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 5 March 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Secretary-General

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

The people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran received with shock, indignation and outrage the news of fresh and intensified Serbian aggression and barbarism against the defenceless people of eastern Bosnia. What is taking place in the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina today is in fact the shameless continuation of the abhorrent policy of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Serbs in order to create the Greater Serbia.

The latest report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on the atrocities being committed by the Serbs point to the fact that Serbian forces are engaged in a large-scale massacre of Muslims in eastern Bosnia. Different information in public domain have also confirmed that the Serbian forces are killing Muslims, shelling the Muslim populated areas and forcing them to evacuate the cities in continuation of the abhorrent practice of ethnic cleansing.

Since the beginning of the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Security Council has adopted several resolutions and statements - the latest of which is the Presidential statement of 3 March 1993 - calling for a cease-fire and an end to hostilities. These calls, which have regrettably lacked any meaningful enforcement mechanism or even serious political will to that effect, have gone unheeded by the Serbian aggressors who have intensified their aggression and onslaught against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina with impunity. In view of the persistent Serbian intransigence and their blatant violations of every rule of humanity and universally recognized international humanitarian law, as well as their total disregard for the decisions of the international community, particularly those of the United Nations, the Security Council should reconsider its approach to this grave tragedy, remedy its past mistakes and begin to reverse the Serbian aggression and atrocious crimes by the full use of its authority under the Charter of the United Nations.

In this connection, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, like the majority of the membership of the international community, believes that in order to put an end to the Serbian aggression, the Security Council should adopt the following measures immediately:

(1) Since all parties involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina have signed the military agreement, the Council should immediately call for the cessation of hostilities and take effective measures prescribed in Chapter 7 of the Charter of the United Nations to stop continued Serbian aggression against Bosnian towns and villages, including those under occupation, seige and daily shelling;

(2) The war crimes tribunal should in fact be established without further delay and aggressors and criminals should be tried and punished in accordance with international law;

(3) The Security Council should enforce its resolution 770 (1992) expeditiously in order to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Unless and until the Security Council succeeds in stopping the onslaught and genocide of the defenceless population of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the armed and well-equipped Serbs, the preclusion of the Government and people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise their inherent right to self-defence is not only unjust but morally and legally unjustified. If the Security Council is not prepared to shoulder its responsibilities by stopping the aggression and restoring Bosnia and Herzegovina's sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity, it should at least enable the Bosnians to do so themselves through the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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APPOINTMENTS TO FILL VACANCIES IN SUBSIDIARY ORGANS AND OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Confirmation of the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. Section II, paragraph 27, of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964 provides that the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development shall be appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and that his appointment shall be confirmed by the Assembly.

2. By its decision 46/316 B of 2 March 1992, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, confirmed the extension of the appointment of Mr. Kenneth K. S. Dadzie as Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development for a period of one year through 31 March 1993.

3. The Secretary-General proposes that the appointment of Mr. Dadzie be extended for a further period of one year through 31 March 1994.

4. The Secretary-General expresses the hope that the General Assembly will confirm this extension of appointment.

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